



Embassy of Greece
London

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Newsletter
July-September 2025



Greece Strengthens Maritime Ties at London International Shipping Week

On 15–16 September, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy,

Vassilis Kikilias, visited the UK for London International Shipping Week (#LISW25), reaffirming Greece's global maritime leadership and advancing cooperation with key UK and international partners.

On September 16, Minister Kikilias participated in a keynote panel at the Capital Link Shipping and Marine Services Forum, where he emphasized Greece's leading role in global shipping and its vital contribution to international trade and economic growth.

In a meeting with IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez the day before, discussions focused on the shipping industry's energy transition and the importance of coordinated global action, leaving no one behind, particularly the industry.

During his visit, the Greek Minister also held his first meeting with the UK Minister for Transport (responsible for maritime policy), Keir Mather MP, to explore ways to further strengthen Greece-UK maritime relations, building on long-standing ties between our two countries.

Finally, in talks with senior officials from the UK Border Security Command, shared migration challenges were addressed, with Minister Kikilias highlighting the vital work of the Hellenic Coast Guard.





Panel Event on Maritime Security and International Cooperation at the Hellenic Residence

On 24 September, the Embassy hosted a high-level panel discussion at the Hellenic Residence in London titled "Setting the Compass: International Cooperation for Maritime Security." Held on the eve of World Maritime Day 2025, the event brought together IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez, senior officials, industry leaders, and academics for an in-depth exchange on maritime security.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis highlighted Greece's longstanding role as a leading maritime nation and reaffirmed its commitment to maritime security—both during its 2025–2026 term on the UN Security Council and during its current and prospective membership in the IMO Council. He also referenced key areas for international cooperation outlined by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis during the high-level UN Security Council debate hosted by Greece in May 2025.

The panel discussion, moderated by Ms Elisabeth Braw, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, featured Mr Arsenio Dominguez (IMO), Ms Rosie Seville (UK Permanent Representative to the IMO), and Mr Dimitris Monioudis (member of the Greek Shipping Cooperation Committee). They explored today's maritime security landscape and emphasised the vital role of international collaboration across public and private sectors, alongside the framework of international law.

From the policy sphere, the evening expanded to first-hand perspectives from the open seas via a live connection with Captain Athanassios Moschos aboard the Greek vessel Athens 04, sailing across the Atlantic. The voices of the younger generation were also heard, with remarks by Ms Faye Papadimitriou, who attended the May 2025 UNSC debate. The event concluded with a musical tribute to Greece's deep-rooted maritime heritage, featuring Dr George Zacharias performing the Dodecanesian

Suite by Yannis Konstantinidis on his 1719 violin. For more details and highlights from the event, [click here](#).

Photos: John Kolikis



Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis Joins Panel at LISW25 to Mark Clean Maritime Day

September was a pivotal month for global maritime dialogue in the UK. At the London International Shipping Week (#LISW25), Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis participated in a panel at the UK's Department for Transport (DFT) & Innovate UK Business Connect event marking #CleanMaritimeDay on September 18, where he exchanged views on maritime decarbonisation.

The Greek Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the IMO,

emphasized, among others, that Greece has consistently engaged constructively at the national, EU, and international levels—working closely with partners within the IMO—to advance shipping’s energy transition in a sustainable and realistic way. He also stressed that global cooperation, including the active involvement of industry stakeholders, is essential to ensuring the effectiveness of maritime decarbonisation.



Greece's Defence Innovation on Display at DSEI 2025

With a focus on the Greek presence, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis attended DSEI UK 2025 (9–12 Sept), the UK’s flagship defence event, where he had the opportunity to visit, among others, the stands of Greek companies showcasing the country’s growing defence ecosystem—

highlighting Greece's innovation, expertise, and evolving role in global security and the international defence industry.



Ambassador Meets UK HoC Foreign Affairs Committee Chair to Discuss Strengthening Relations

On July 2, Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis met with the Chair of the UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, Emily Thornberry MP. They discussed the importance of further deepening Greece-UK ties, building on our longstanding friendship and close partnership, and exchanged views on key regional and global issues of mutual concern.





Honouring George Bizos Five Years On in London

Marking five years since the passing of George Bizos (1927–2020), the Embassy hosted a commemorative event to honour his life and legacy at the Hellenic Residence on 9 September.

George Bizos was a pivotal figure in South Africa’s anti-apartheid struggle – a lifelong friend and lawyer to Nelson Mandela – as well as a passionate advocate for the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, a proud Greek of the diaspora with deep connections to his roots, and a unique living bridge between Greece and South Africa. Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis highlighted these aspects in his welcome address.

The evening brought together members of the Bizos family, friends, and distinguished guests from Greece, South Africa, the UK and beyond – including Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and members of the diplomatic, Greek, and South African communities – to reflect on his enduring impact.

Speakers included Mr Kimon Bizos and Ms Lucia Bizos, who shared personal memories of their father and grandfather. The event was honoured by the presence of H.E. Mr Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, High Commissioner of South Africa to the UK, who reflected on the central place Bizos occupies in South African history.

A panel discussion explored Bizos' legacy as a human rights champion and advocate for the return of the Parthenon Marbles. It featured Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, member of the House of Lords and well-known human rights lawyer, and Ms Marlen Godwin of the British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles, moderated by journalist and ERT UK correspondent Ms Evdoxia Lymperi.

The evening concluded with heartfelt reflections by Ms Olga Bonnard and Mr Vasilis Tsaousis, alumni of SAHETI School in Johannesburg, of which George Bizos was a founding member.

Photos: John Kolikis



Showcasing Greek Language at the European Day of Languages in London

On 25 September, the Embassy once again proudly took part in the European Day of Languages 2025 — a celebration of Europe's rich linguistic and cultural diversity in London.

The Embassy teamed up with the Greek Library of London to engage aspiring Greek speakers through fun word games and interactive activities. We were delighted to welcome this year students from the Greek Secondary School of London, as well as pupils from a range of other London schools, alongside language enthusiasts and diplomats. Together with our colleagues from the Cyprus High Commission, we showcased the Greek language's millennia-old history, global influence, and concrete opportunities to learn it in the UK.

Organised by the EU Delegation to the UK and the European Parliament Liaison Office, the event welcomed nearly 400 students from schools across the city.





Ambassador Tsaousis visits Leeds and Newcastle to deepen ties and engage with Greek communities

Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis carried out a two-day visit to Northern England on 11–12 September 2025, with stops in Leeds and Newcastle, to further Greece–UK relations and strengthen ties with local Greek communities.

In Leeds, the Ambassador met with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Dan Cohen, at the Civic Hall, where they discussed the city's historic Greek presence and explored opportunities to deepen cooperation and people-to-people links. He also visited the Greek Orthodox Community of Leeds, including the Church of the Three Hierarchs and the local Greek School, where he donated books to the school library.

In Newcastle, he met with representatives of the local Greek community and teachers from the Greek Community School of Newcastle, and visited the Greek Orthodox Church of St Anthony the Great.

In both cities, discussions with members of the Greek communities focused on promoting the Greek language, heritage, and cultural identity, as well as ways to support the educational and cultural work of the diaspora across the UK.





Seferis Through Young Eyes: Greek diaspora youth connect with his life and work at the Hellenic Residence

Over the past few months, we had the pleasure of welcoming, among others, students from Saint Nicholas Greek School (27 September) and Kingston Greek School of St George (5 July) to the Hellenic Residence for special educational visits and guided tours of our permanent exhibition on Greek Nobel Laureate poet and diplomat George Seferis.

In the very building where Seferis lived and served as Greece's Ambassador to the UK (1957–1962), children explored his study, learned about his legacy, and took part in creative activities that deepened their connection to the Greek language, literature, identity, and roots.

A highlight of the 27 September visit was a creative writing workshop with author and stylolinguist Nikos Mathioudakis, co-author of *My Name is George Seferis*—part of a book series introducing young readers to key figures in modern Greek poetry.

These visits are part of our ongoing programme, in collaboration with the Children's Section of the Greek Library of London, to bring younger generations of the Greek diaspora or of Greek heritage closer to Greece's literary and cultural legacy.



Connecting with the UK Student Community: Applied Diplomacy Talk Series Continues at the Embassy

On September 3rd, it was a great pleasure to host the students of the School for Ethics and Global Leadership at the Embassy in London for a lively and thought-provoking conversation with Ambassador Yannis Tsalousis on cultural diplomacy.

The session was part of the Ambassador's ongoing *Applied Diplomacy* talk

series, which aims to foster dialogue with students and young leaders in the UK on goal-oriented, solution-driven diplomacy—through practical examples and career insights.



Celebrating Greece's "Island of Light" in the Heart of London

A beloved destination for British travellers, Rhodes—with its timeless beauty and rich heritage—was spotlighted at Somerset House, London, on 23 September, during a special preview screening of Bettany Hughes' *Treasures of the World – Rhodes: Island of Light*. Guests enjoyed exclusive clips and a Q&A with renowned historian, author, and broadcaster Bettany Hughes, who shared insights into the island's cultural legacy.

Co-organised by the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO) UK & Ireland Office, the event opened with remarks by Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis and concluded with a speech by GNTO Secretary General, Mr. Andreas Fiorentinos, who highlighted Rhodes as a year-round destination, thanks to its enduring natural beauty and cultural richness.

The film is set to premiere this October and is expected to be broadcast in over 100 countries, reaching millions of viewers worldwide.



Greece

"BEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY" AT THE 2025 TELEGRAPH TRAVEL AWARDS

Greece Crowned Best European Country at the 2025 Telegraph Travel Awards

July marked another proud moment for Greece's standing as a leading destination worldwide. Reaffirming its enduring appeal to British travellers, Greece was named Best European Country at the 2025 Telegraph Travel Awards, announced at a special event on July 11.

Voted by nearly 20,000 Telegraph readers, Greece claimed the top European spot for the first time — and ranked 5th globally, up six spots from 2023.

The Telegraph praised Greece's outstanding qualities, noting: "There is little at which the country does not excel." From ancient wonders like the Parthenon to the sun-soaked islands of the Aegean and Ionian seas, Greece continues to capture the imagination of travellers from the UK and beyond.

Eleni Skarveli, Director of GNT0 UK & Ireland, accepted the award on Greece's behalf from Ben Ross, Head of Travel at The Telegraph.



News and Updates



#TraveltoEurope: From 12 October 2025, the EU's new Entry/Exit System (EES) enters into force for non-EU nationals visiting 29 European countries, including Greece. The EES is designed to make border crossings easier and more efficient. It will record travel document details, Entry and exit dates, Biometric data. Learn more by [clicking here](#).



#SeferisinLondon: This October, the Embassy's permanent exhibition "George Seferis: The Man, the Poet, the Diplomat" will be open on October 7 and 30 at the Hellenic Residence.

Free entry – registration required.
[Click [here](#) to book.]

November–December dates will be shared on the Embassy's website and social media ahead of time.



**Please note that the Embassy and the Consular Office in
London will remain closed on October 28th.**



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